

THE FIFTEEN SOVIET REPUBLICS
TODAY AND TOMORROW

KIRGHIZIA

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**Complete Transformation of Former
Backward Colony**



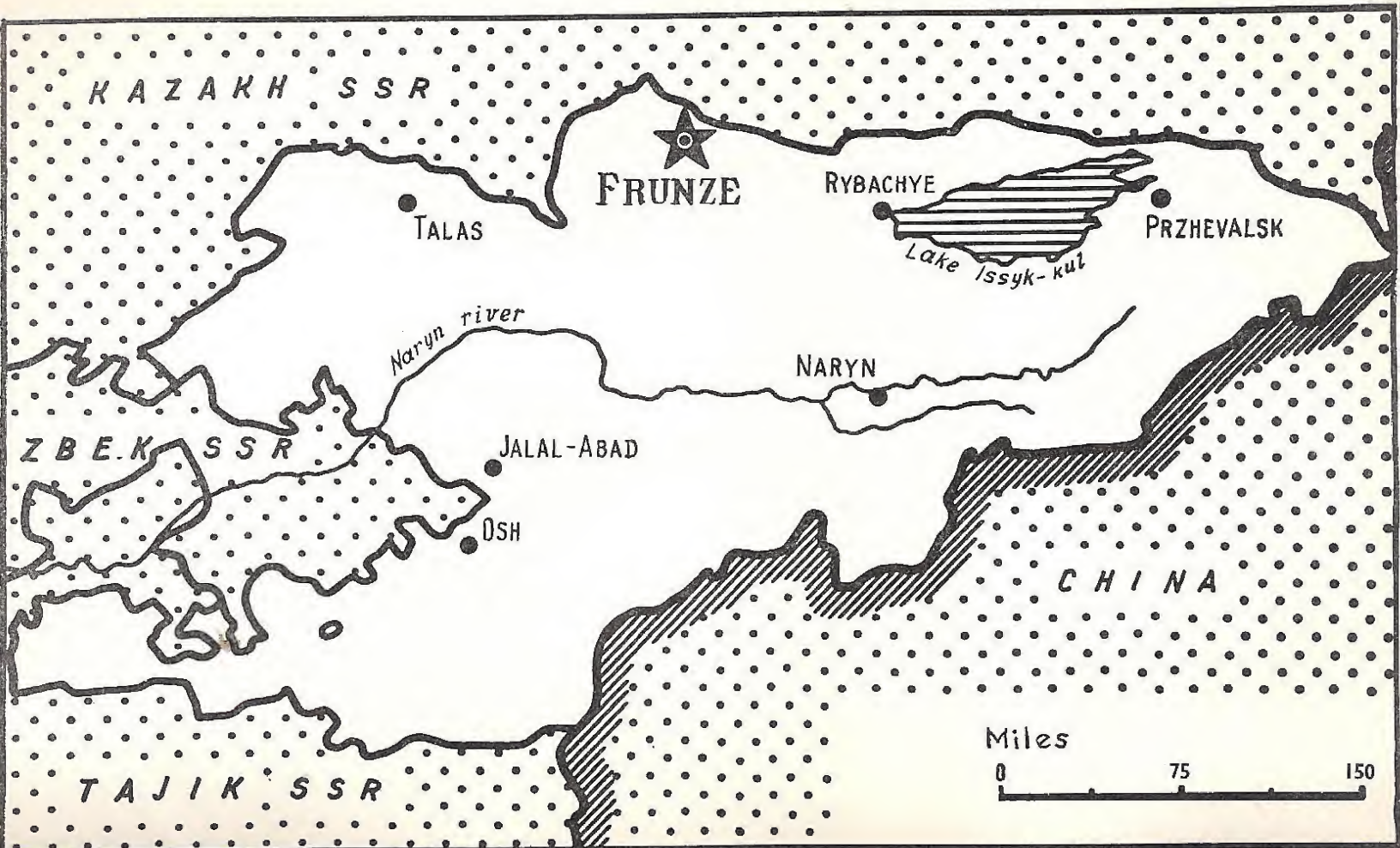
Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic

by

Kazy Dikambayev
Chairman of the Kirghiz S.S.R.
Council of Ministers

Soviet
Booklet
No. 60/K

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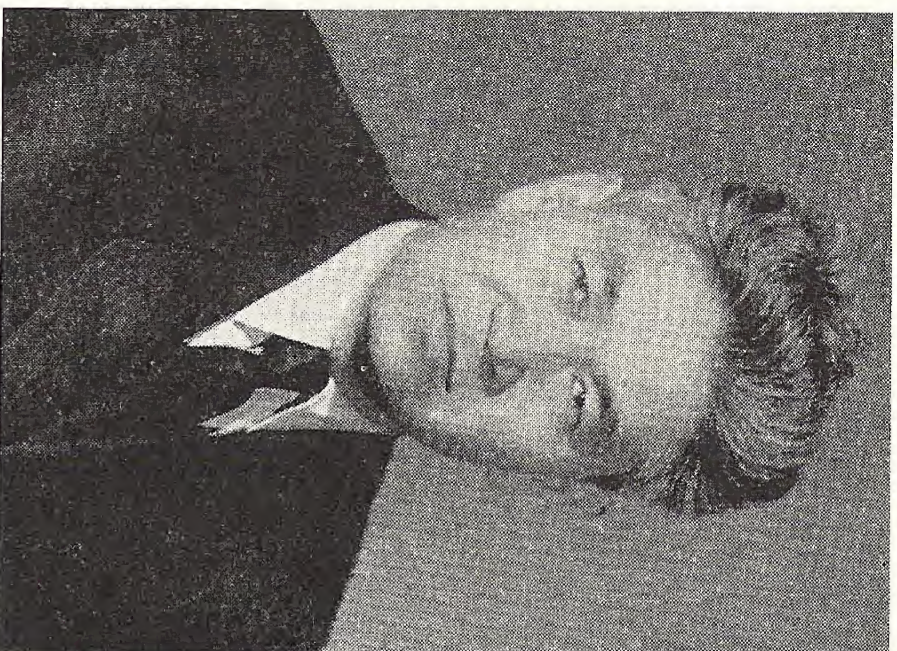
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KAZY DIKAMBAYEV

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A Note on the Author

KAZY DIKAMBAYEV, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Kirghiz S.S.R., was born in 1913 into an ordinary peasant family in a Kirghiz mountain village. After the Revolution he received his education at secondary school and at the Tashkent Institute of Economics.

Kazy Dikambayev has a varied record of practical experience in government institutions, Party and public organisations. He was employed as an economist in the Industrial Department of GOSPLAN (State Planning Committee) and as Chairman of a Regional Planning Commission; he held at different times the offices of People's Commissar of State Control, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kirghiz S.S.R., Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Kirghiz S.S.R., Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kirghizia, and First Secretary of the Frunze Regional Committee of the Party.

He became Chairman of the Kirghiz S.S.R. Council of Ministers in 1958.

Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic

Land and People

IN THE EXTREME south-east of the Soviet Union, where it borders on China and where the Tien Shan and Pamir-Alai mountain ranges raise their summits towards the skies, lies the Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic, one of the fifteen sovereign Republics of the U.S.S.R.

Kirghizia is a land of tall and picturesque mountains. Their snowcapped peaks tower as high as 15,000-18,000 feet above sea level. Rushing rivers, which have their source in the mountain glaciers, sweep down into the fertile valleys where man has built dams and canals, and where the fields cultivated with the aid of machines yield bumper crops.

Kirghizia has rich deposits of coal, oil and natural gas. Her mineral wealth includes lead, molybdenum, tungsten, mercury, antimony, gold, raw materials for the production of cement and much else.

Geologists tell us that about sixty elements listed in the Mendeleev table have been found in Kirghizia. As far back as 1935, the eminent Soviet scientist I. M. Gubkin described Kirghizia's natural resources as a real gem.

The hydro-electric potentialities of the Republic are greater than the combined hydro-electric resources of the German Federal Republic, Britain, France and Switzerland put together.

Kirghizia has fine alpine pastures and fertile valleys. Her soil, climate and irrigation combine to create favourable conditions for agriculture. Wheat, maize, sugar beet, the medicinal poppy, cotton, and melons yield high crops in the Republic; rich crops are picked also in the vineyards and orchards. With a territory of 80,000 square miles, Kirghizia has a population of 2 million. In addition to the Kirghiz, the inhabitants of the Republic include Russians, Ukrainians, Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Dzungars and other nationalities.

The Kirghiz S.S.R. is a workers' and peasants' state. The highest organ of power is the Supreme Soviet of the Republic elected for a term of four years. The rights of the citizens are protected by the Constitution of the Republic.

The Chains of Slavery Smashed

Under the tsarist regime, Kirghizia was a backward colonial border region of Russia. Her people were kept in subjection and were doomed to extinction. The Kirghiz had no written language of their own. They led a nomad existence, moving from place to place with their tents and flocks; they were doctored by ignorant quacks. There was not one Kirghiz with a higher education in those days.

Generations of Kirghiz people conducted a struggle for happiness, for the right to their free national development, against ignorance and oppression, against tyranny and poverty.

The October Socialist Revolution meant a radical change in the historic destinies of the Kirghiz people. It smashed the chains of

capitalist, feudal and colonial slavery, freed the Kirghiz from social oppression and gained them national freedom.

For the first time in their history the Kirghiz were able to acquire an independent statehood. With the active assistance of all the fraternal peoples of the Soviet Union, Kirghizia took to the course of economic and cultural progress.

Radical Transformation

In Soviet times Kirghizia has built up a modern industry equipped with the latest machinery. The great natural wealth of the Republic has been placed in the service of the people. Her new cities have developed into important industrial and cultural centres.

Radical changes have been carried out in agriculture. In place of backward, isolated stock breeding conducted by nomads, Kirghizia has a mechanised multiple-husbandry agriculture conducted on a large-scale by collective and state farms.

Culture has made great progress in the Republic. A skilled Kirghiz working class and intelligentsia have been trained. Soviet power has unfettered Kirghiz women; it has given them equal rights with men and created all the necessary conditions for their active participation in state affairs, in economic and cultural endeavours.

National literature and the arts are flourishing in Kirghizia, which has her own Academy of Sciences, numerous research institutions and higher schools which educate specialists for all branches of the national economy and culture.

The economic and cultural progress of the Kirghiz people is the result of the combined efforts of all the socialist nations and nationalities of the Soviet Union. Their fraternal co-operation is based on the great principle of working class internationalism.

Important new tasks confront the Republic today. Together with all the peoples of the Soviet Union the Kirghiz are working on the implementation of the Seven-Year Plan for still greater economic progress mapped out by the Twenty-First Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Magnificent prospects for economic and cultural development, for improvements in the general living standard of the people, lie before all the Soviet Republics. Kirghizia included. It is hard to imagine that less than fifty years ago this flourishing Soviet Republic was an impoverished colony of Tsarist Russia.

Kirghizstan has truly undergone a complete transformation. It is of its hard past, wonderful present and still more beautiful future, of its industry, agriculture and culture, of the working people of present-day Kirghizia that I shall speak in this small book.

Industrial Kirghizia

Pre-revolutionary Kirghizia had no large-scale industry. Her natural wealth had lain dormant for ages. In 1913, Kirghizia had only a small number of handicraft shops with primitive equipment which employed less than 1,500 workers.

There were two small cotton ginneries, a few coal and salt mines, eight flour mills, five breweries and three liqueur distilleries.

That was the unenviable "industrial" heritage taken over by Soviet Kirghizia. And its economic and political development was therefore greatly handicapped in the first years of Soviet government.

The policy of industrialisation adopted by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union opened the way to the real national, economic and cultural advancement of the Kirghiz people.

Under the pre-war five-year plans, new industries were launched in Kirghizia: she was able to build meat packing plants, to start the production of sugar, leather, shoes and garments, to open cotton ginning plants, and tobacco factories, to undertake the construction of a heavy industry, to develop the production of non-ferrous metals and oil.

Immediately before the Great Patriotic War (1941-5) gross industrial output in Kirghizia was almost ten times the 1913 volume. The number of workers employed in industry in the Republic had grown to 36,000 by 1940.

The post-war period has been marked not only by a higher rate of industrial development, but also by radical changes in the structural pattern of industry.

Kirghizia today is a Republic with a rapidly growing heavy industry. The share of the industries producing the means of production, of the ore mining, metal-working and engineering industries, has been growing very rapidly in the industrial output of the Republic.

For example, while total industrial output in 1958 was more than five times the 1945 volume, engineering and metal-working output increased eighteen times over.

Kirghizia is now producing metal-cutting machinery, farm machines, electric motors, equipment for motor repairs, bicycles and much else. There are many factories of the light and food industries; and production of meat, butter, flour, sugar, tinned goods and wines is being rapidly increased.

There are in Kirghizia at present 4,579 enterprises, including 736 big factories and mills.

How far Kirghizia's industrial development has advanced in Soviet times may be judged by the fact that in one week her industry is turning out as much output as in a whole year before the Revolution.

A formerly backward region, Kirghizia is raising her industrial level year after year. For illustration I may cite the following figures: twelve big industrial enterprises have been put into operation in the Republic in the last three years alone. They include a factory for the production of physical instruments, the Kara-Su coal seam, the "Fortieth October" factory which turns out the bulk of the garments made in the Republic, two hydro-electric stations, a plant for the production of ferro-concrete structural parts, and a bicycle factory.

One of the outstanding achievements of Soviet Kirghizia is the rapid growth in the number of skilled workers trained from the midst of the Kirghiz. Formerly illiterate nomads and herdsmen have acquired skill in many trades, and they are employed as steel makers, machine builders, electricians, textile and shoe workers.

The number of workers in the Republic increased to 85,500 in 1958.

A New Stage

Kirghizia's industrial development, and her general national economic and cultural development, has entered a new stage. The seven-year plan has opened exceedingly great prospects for economic progress. Its target figures provide for an increase of 120 per cent in industrial production in the Republic, as compared with 1958. The average annual increase will amount to 12.3 per cent.

These high rates of development represent another striking expression of the essence of the national policy of the Communist Party which is doing everything to ensure still greater and faster economic progress of the Republics which were once backward colonies of tsarist Russia.

Production of non-ferrous metals, machinery, instruments, oil, gas, coal and food will continue to rise.

An automobile assembly and other engineering plants will be built in the current seven years. The output of instruments will be increased fourteen times over. Production of forging presses is due to begin soon, and the output of electric motors will increase fourfold in the seven years.

Output in light industry is due to rise by almost 200 per cent in 1965. Especially great will be the increases in the production of cotton, woollen and silk fabrics, knitted goods, garments, leather and shoes.

Light industry will receive more than 570 million roubles in capital investment, an increase of more than 300 per cent over the previous seven years.

Construction of worsted mills was started in 1959. Cotton mills, which will turn out annually 130 million yards of textiles, will be built in the South of the Republic. Its first section will begin production in 1964.

In addition to these colossal enterprises, it is planned to build factories for the production of knitted garments and furs, to put into operation the Frunze shoe factory in 1960 and to build in the south a factory for the production of leather and shoes.

It is proposed to invest about 500 million roubles in the food industry which will have a new sugar refinery in the Chu Valley, five new meat packing plants, twenty-three modern creameries, a big mechanised bakery at Frunze, a tobacco factory and breweries in Osh Region.

Capital investments in the national economy of the Republic in the seven-year period will amount to 10,700 million roubles, which is 130 per cent more than the total invested in the previous seven years.

Labour productivity is expected to grow at a much faster rate in these seven years, and to rise by more than 50 per cent, mainly due to the supply of improved equipment and to the promotion of mechanisation and automation.

In the coal mining industry mechanisation of coal heaving and shovelling will be raised by 350 per cent, and preliminary tunnelling and the transport of earth and coal by 700 per cent.

Mechanisation and automation will make considerable headway in engineering. The foundries will receive a considerable supply of conveyors; metal pouring, shake-out and chipping will be mechanised. Multiple devices, group set-ups, pneumatic and hydraulic clamping will be employed in the engineering industry on a large scale.

Frunze—Our Capital

Frunze, the capital of the Republic and her most important industrial centre, has a population of about 220,000.

Look at the picture in the centre spread of the art section. It's a view of Frunze from the air. Its square blocks stand out most distinctly thanks to the rows of poplars and plane-trees which stretch in a green frame around the streets. Parks and gardens occupy what is perhaps the largest territory of the city.

The factory blocks are fairly obscured from sight by rich greenery. There are many factories in the city and their number is growing year after year.

Frunze's importance as an industrial centre is growing rapidly, too. An idea of present-day Kirghizia, the Kirghizia where even the iron plough was rare in the recent past, may be gained in the Frunze agricultural machinery plant which occupies an area of scores of acres.

Its big shops are equipped with the latest machinery. The plant supplies machines for collective farms in Kirghizia and in the other fraternal Republics, as well as for export: to Albania, Bulgaria and the German Democratic Republic.

Mechanisation has been brought up to a high level, and automation is being steadily pushed ahead in the plant. (See photo on first page of art section.)

Many nationalities are represented among the thousands of workers employed in this plant: Kirghiz, Russians, Uzbeks, Dzungars, Ukrainians and Tajiks.

Blocks of new flats have been built for the workers of this plant, as well as a club, a polyclinic and a stadium for their convenience; kindergartens and creches have been opened for their children.

A beautiful park laid out in the neighbourhood bears the name of Julius Fucik*. Workers come to this park for a rest, to play a game of chess, to see a film or to attend a good concert.

The Kirghiz people would have been unable on their own to build such an engineering colossus, with an automatic line and excellently equipped shops. It was only through the assistance of all the peoples of the Soviet Union, especially the Russian people, that this could be achieved.

The Frunze plant received modern equipment from the Ukraine (Kharkov), and the Russian Federation (Moscow and Leningrad).

The whole country helped to industrialise the Republic.

A provincial town of the Russian empire in the past, Pishpek, as Frunze was then called, had no factories and no secondary schools; it had neither water-mains, nor electricity, neither public libraries nor theatres.

Frunze today is the most important political, industrial and cultural centre of the Republic, with engineering factories, a fine meat packing plant, cotton spinning, hemp and jute mills, leather and shoe factories, knitted goods and furniture factories, big flour and hulling mills, distilleries which supply cham pagne and wine, printing works, and so on.

* Julius Fucik was a hero of the Czechoslovak resistance movement who was murdered by the Nazis. In his widely-known autobiographical book, *Notes from the Gallows*, which was published after his death, Fucik described his ordeal in captivity and his undying hatred of fascism.—Ed.

Factories for the production of machinery, building materials, foodstuffs and manufactured consumer goods will be added before the beginning of 1965.

Socialist economic progress is attended by improvements in the life of the people. Professions formerly unknown to the Kirghiz have become commonplace today.

Here is one of many examples: Ainek Atkulova was born and raised in the highlands. When a garment factory was built in Frunze, Ainek, who had very little schooling at that time, wanted to become a garment worker.

Within a few years she managed not only to become a skilled garment worker; she became one of the best workers in the Republic and gained fame as an innovator. She was elected and returned for a second term to the Supreme Soviet of the Kirghiz S.S.R.

Young people from outlying mountain villages come to the big factories and construction sites where they are given the opportunity of learning new trades. Kirghiz are employed as turners, fitters, engine drivers, bricklayers, machine setters, truck drivers and miners.

Industrial development has created a high demand for skilled workers. Especially great skill and experience are required for the operation of the complex equipment in the physical instruments factory, one of the youngest enterprises in Frunze, and the Kirghiz engineers, technicians and workers employed there have proved equal to their task. The new reinforcements are made up entirely of youths and girls with a secondary schooling, for even the ordinary worker employed in this plant requires a good grounding in physics, mathematics and chemistry.

The life story of Toktogul Malydybayev, a young worker, is a typical example. He had never handled any "tool" except a shepherd's staff before he came to work on the construction of the reservoir in Orto-Tokoy (which is now being completed). Since then he has learned to drive a truck and tractor and has acquired skill in tunnelling and concreting. When this construction is completed, Malydybayev will have no trouble in finding employment: his services will be needed wherever any construction is in progress.

Treasures Hidden in the Kirghiz Mountains

The coal mines of Kyzyl-Kiy, Sulyukty, Kok-Yangak and Tash-Kumyr are often referred to as the Central Asian coal treasury. Coal mined in the South of Kirghizia is used by many industrial enterprises of the Central Asian Republics of the Soviet Union.

Many Kirghiz miners have gained countrywide renown by their labour. Altmynsh Sayvaldiyev, a descendant of generations of herdsmen, now employed as leader of a brigade of tunnellers in the Kyzyl-Dzhar Mines, is a Hero of Socialist Labour.

Turalai Kulatov, who for some ten years worked as a hewer, gained wide respect for his work and social activities, and was elected deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic.

A few years later Turalai Kulatov was elected to the post of President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Kirghiz S.S.R. and Vice-President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. From time to time Kulatov performs the duties of the head of the state at the Moscow Krem-

lin, receiving foreign ambassadors, presiding at meetings and endorsing important state documents.

Miners' lives have changed completely in the Soviet period: they live in well-appointed towns situated close to the coal mines. Many miners have their own motor-cycles, or motor cars. Radio and TV sets may be seen in every home.

The miners of Kyzyl-Kiy have their own Palace of Culture; chess tournaments, athletic competitions, as well as balls, dramatic performances and concerts are arranged there.

Coal was mined in Kirghizia also in the past, but on a very small scale. As for the production of non-ferrous metals, for example, this industry was built up literally from scratch.

Mined on the territory of Kirghizia are lead, molybdenum, tungsten and raw materials for the production of cement. We have rich deposits of antimony, mercury and zinc. As a supplier of mercury and antimony the Republic occupies a leading place in the Soviet Union.

New coal and ore mines are constantly being put into operation as new deposits are discovered in the Kirghiz mountains. Scores of geological parties are working in the Tien Shan and Pamir-Alai mountains.

Our age is an age of chemistry. No advanced industrial country can exist today without a chemical industry. Until very recently, however, chemical production was not developed in Kirghizia. This oversight will be repaired in the seven-year period.

Deposits of natural gas have been found in the south and north of the Republic, and at the end of the seven-year period gas will be made available for industrial and household use in the big cities and industrial centres. Altogether, 15,000 flats will receive gas.

More rapid progress of electric power production will create the necessary pre-requisites for the development of chemical production in the Republic.

And so, Kirghizia today is primarily a Republic with a rapidly growing heavy industry. Coal, oil, gas and non-ferrous metals are the dominant features in the countenance of our industry.

Tanning Rivers

Rushing rivers which have their source in the Tien Shan snows and glaciers contain vast resources of hydro-electric power. In fact, Kirghizia occupies third place in the Soviet Union (after the Russian Federation and highland Tajikistan, its close neighbour) for the potential hydro-electric resources of its rivers.

One of the most tempestuous rivers in Central Asia, the Naryn, winds its way across the mountains and rushes down their slopes into the Fergana Valley where it nurtures the great Syr-Darya River. The task of taming this unruly river still remains, but work is already in progress on the construction of the Uch-Kurgan hydro-electric station.

This station will soon begin to generate electricity; its capacity will subsequently be brought up to 160,000 kw.

The Uch-Kurgan and other electric power plants of Kirghizia will ultimately be joined in one colossal Central-Asian electric power system. Combining the capacities of all their electric power plants,

the fraternal Republics of Soviet Central Asia will be able to make full and planned use of their electric power resources.

The first section of the heat and power plant in Frunze will begin operation in 1961; its production will be brought up to full capacity by the end of the seven-year period. Rural hydro-electric stations to be built by the state and by the collective farms will have a total capacity of 24,600 kw.

Annual production of electric power in the Republic will surpass 2,000 million kwh., or 1,000 kwh. per inhabitant.

It is proposed to raise production of electric power by the end of the seven-year period to 360 per cent of the 1958 volume.

Fulfillment of the plan for electrification will raise consumption of electric power in industry by 150 per cent and in agriculture by more than 300 per cent. Electrification of all state farms, machine repair stations and collective farms is to be completed in the seven-year period.

Mountain Pastures and Fertile Valleys

A country with rich and varied natural resources, Kirghizia has vast mountain pastures and fertile valleys. But its agriculture was very backward before the Revolution, and it was conducted by primitive methods.

Livestock farming, the main branch of husbandry, was entirely at the mercy of nature's whims, and field husbandry was merely a sideline. Machines, such as the tractor, combine harvester, or the threshing machine, were unknown in pre-revolutionary Kirghizia.

The fertile land in the Chu and Talass valleys, in the Issyk-Kul depression and in the Fergana foothills were practically uncultivated.

The Soviet Government turned over the land to the working herds-men and land tillers for perpetual use free of charge.

Wheat, barley, oats, millet, maize, cotton, sugar beet, tobacco, the medicinal poppy, essential oil and oil plants, feed crops, vegetables and potatoes are cultivated in the Republic today. Orchards and vineyards are being steadily expanded.

The assistance of the fraternal Republics of the Soviet Union, which supplied Kirghizia with farm machines, building materials, equipment and highly skilled agricultural specialists, combined with the enthusiastic labour of the Kirghiz people who discarded the yoke of colonial oppression, enabled them to achieve their great success in the restoration and development of agriculture in the Republic.

In place of the backward livestock breeding conducted by nomad herdsmen, Kirghizia now has a mechanised multiple-husbandry agriculture conducted on a large scale by collective and state farms.

The use of modern equipment and of the latest scientific methods of cultivation and stock breeding has enabled the collective and state farms to bring about a considerable increase in production and in the sales of agricultural products to the state. The progress made in field and animal husbandry accounts for the growing wealth of the collective farms.

More than 15,000 tractors of various designations, 5,200 combine harvesters, thousands of trucks and a great deal of other mechanical equipment are used in agriculture in the Republic at present.

The cultivated areas have been almost doubled as compared with 1913 and the territory under technical crops has grown by 350 per cent.

Ploughing has already been mechanised to almost 100 per cent, grain sowing to the extent of more than 90 per cent, cotton and sugar beet sowing to 100 per cent, grain harvesting to 98 per cent and sugar beet harvesting to about 90 per cent.

There are in the Republic 411 collective farms, 63 multiple-husbandry state farms, 2 machine and tractor stations and 44 machine repair stations. The collective and state farms of the Republic are constantly improving their organisation and raising the productivity of labour.

Abandonment of the primitive nomad economy and the organisation of collective and state farms created favourable conditions for a radical improvement in the breeds and for an increase in the size of the herds and flocks.

The number of sheep and goats increased to 6 million in 1958, as compared with 3,300,000 in 1916, and the number of heads of cattle from 590,000 to 736,000. The number of pigs grew five times over the same period.

Fine-fleeced and semi-fine fleeced sheep which comprised no more than 0.2 per cent of all the flocks in 1914, now make up 90 per cent of the flocks on the collective farms. Practically all the cattle on the state farms of the Republic and 60 per cent of the cattle on the collective farms is made up of Alatau and improved stock.

Carrying into practice the resolutions of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government for a radical upturn in agriculture, the working people employed in Kirghizia's agriculture achieved a considerable increase in agricultural production in 1958. As compared with 1953, production of grain had grown in 1958 by more than 40 per cent, of sugar beet by 140 per cent, of potatoes and vegetables by 80 per cent, milk by 187 per cent, wool by 68 per cent.

In 1958, the Republic delivered to the state more than 1.2 million tons of sugar beet and 15,000 tons of wool, including about 80 per cent of fine and semi-fine fleeced varieties.

Collective Farms

The village of Saru on the southern shore of Lake Issyk-Kul lies high in the mountains. It is like many other villages which extend in a long chain on the shore, and the changes that have taken place in Saru in Soviet times are practically the same as in other Kirghiz villages.

Builders are now at work on the construction of a collective-farm club in Saru, owing to the fact that the old club has grown too small. Its hall has only 300 seats, and there is inadequate room for the amateur art groups. The new club will be a two-storey building with a hall which will have 600 seats, a big lobby, and rooms for a dramatic company, a choir, an orchestra of folk instruments, and an art circle.

The collective-farm management will have its offices in the same building. The building where the collective farm administration has its offices at present will be re-equipped for use as a kindergarten and nursery.

An electric power plant was built by the villages of Saru and Darkhany for joint use. Electricity is now used in the workshops for operating turret lathes and boring machines, frame saw and winnow, and for grading grain at the mechanised open-air threshing grounds, and for heating water for bathing the sheep. The forging press and shearing machines are also electrically operated.

Electric light has banished the kerosene lamp and the ancient wick light from the homes of the collective farmers, and electric irons and electric cookers are now commonplace in Kirghiz village homes.

Passing through the streets of Saru village one cannot help noticing the many new houses and those still under construction. Eighty houses were built in 1958 alone, and many more are being put up. The collective farm takes upon itself the main responsibility for this construction.

It has become a regular practice in Saru for those who desire to build a new home to conclude a contract with the collective farm administration. The collective farm provides the necessary timber, bricks, roofing and other building materials, and the construction is done by the local brigade of builders headed by Konobekov, an expert in his line.

All this is done on a credit basis, the collective-farm family paying out the loan in the space of several years.

The houses now being built at Saru and other villages consist as a rule of three or four rooms under a roof of slate or tile.

This picture of life today in Saru Village would be incomplete without an explanation as to where it gets its wealth. A poor collective farm would have been unable to spend 1.5 million roubles on the construction of a club and to assist its members in building new homes. The collective farm in Saru Village is known as a thriving farm.

Its livestock sections contain 20,000 sheep, almost 1,000 head of dairy cattle, and 200 pigs. The farm has at its disposal 100,000 acres of land, including 75,000 acres of cropland (the remainder being made up of grazing land).

Poppy fields supply a valuable raw material for the medical industry. Wheat, maize, potatoes and root vegetables are cultivated on the farm which has twenty-four tractors, many combine harvesters, tractor-drawn drills, cultivators, bulldozers, and so on.

Its income amounts to 8 million roubles a year, and in 1965, the collective farmers of Saru expect an income of more than 16 million roubles.

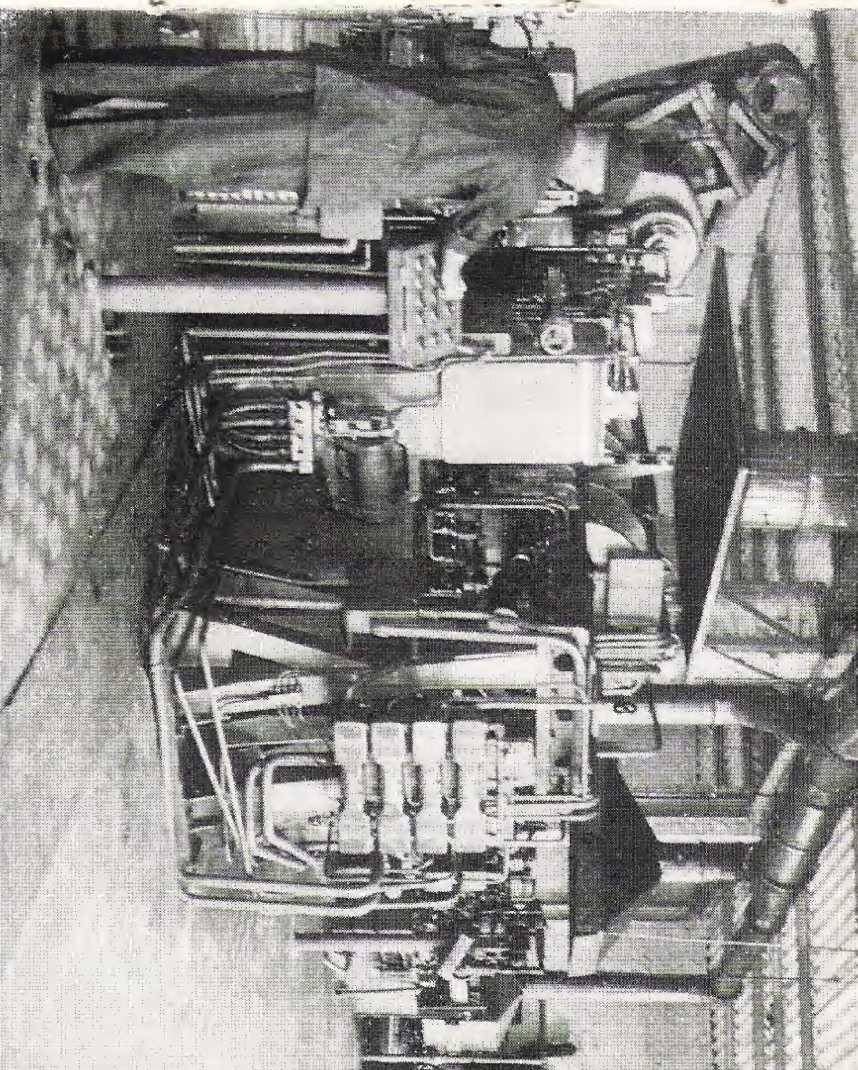
Mechanised Farm

The Michurin collective farm in the Chu district has undertaken to build up, with the assistance of scientists of the Kirghiz animal husbandry and veterinary medical research institute, a livestock farm where hand labour will be reduced to a minimum and all laborious jobs will be performed by machinery.

This farm is already in existence. Look into the barns during working hours and you will see hardly any people. Instead there is a constantly moving conveyor with large containers resembling excavator scoops, each with a number marked on it. On reaching the trough, which bears an identical marking, the container is automatically tilted, dumping the silage, hay or oil cakes it contains into the trough.

The barns are also cleaned automatically by means of a mechanical spade. All the work is performed by one operator who presses the required buttons on a panel.

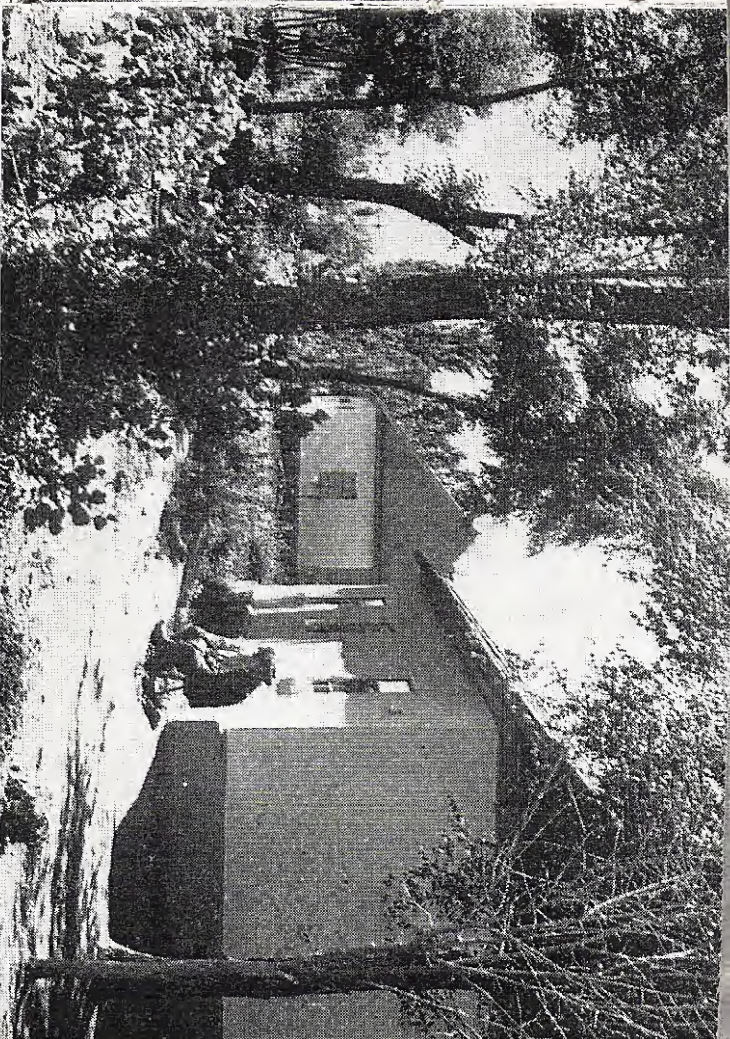
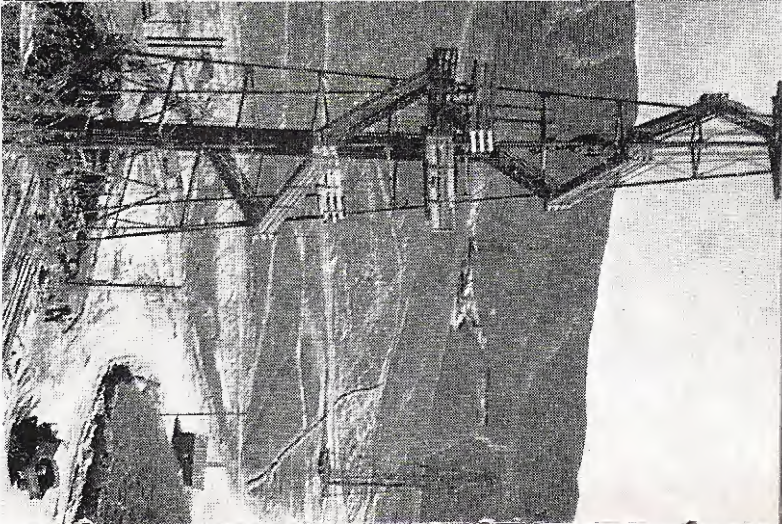
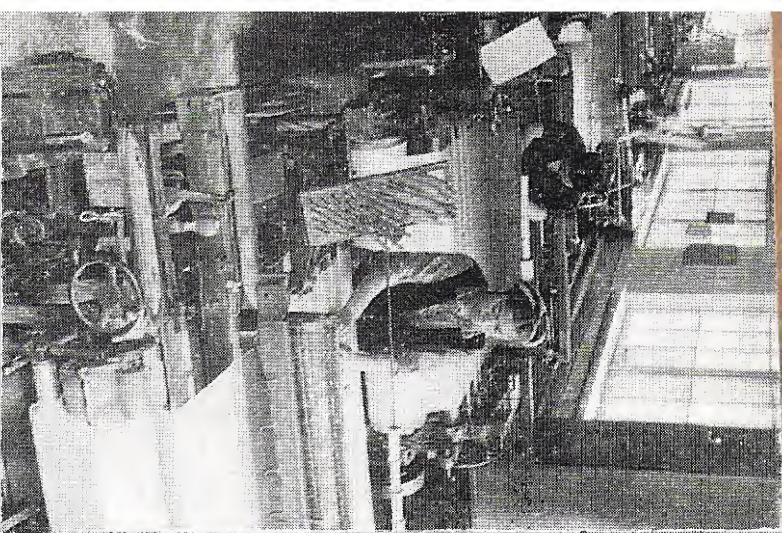
The animals spend only six hours a day at the barns to receive their rations. For the rest of the day and night they remain off the halter. It requires only one mechanical unit to take care of 320 cows.



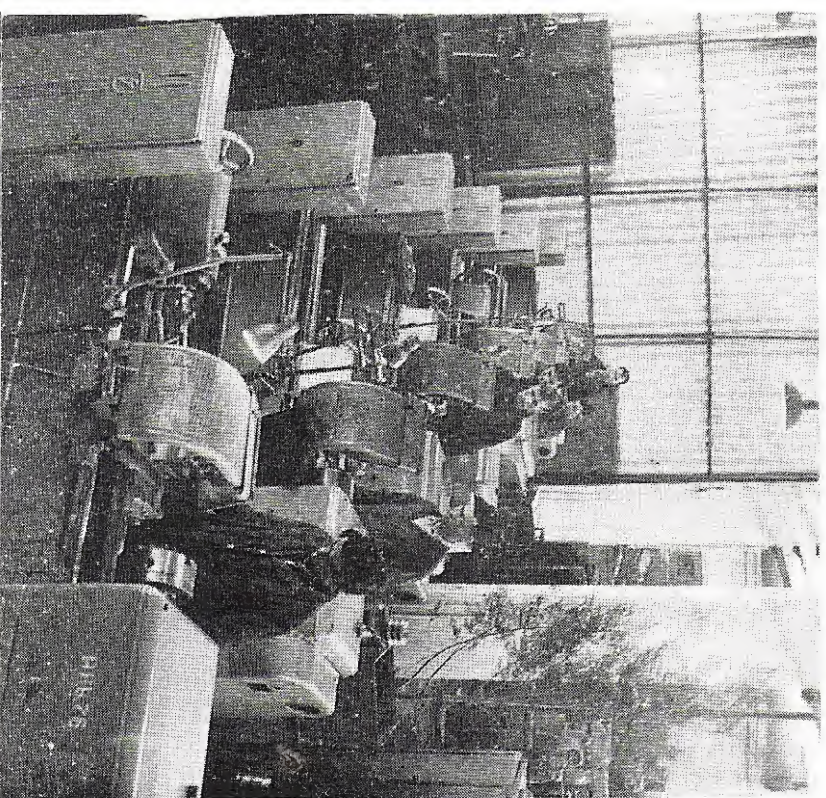
Above: the automatic production line machining rake prongs at the Agricultural Machine-building Factory in Frunze.



Right: a corner of a meat-packing factory in Frunze.



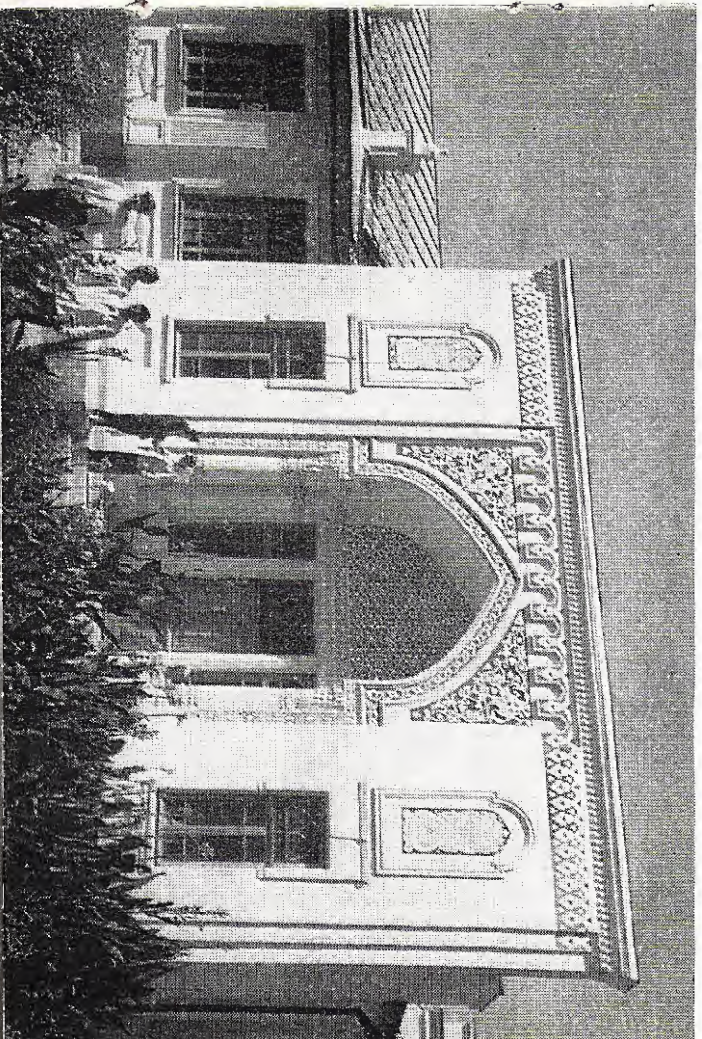
Collective farmers' homes on the Kenesh collective farm.



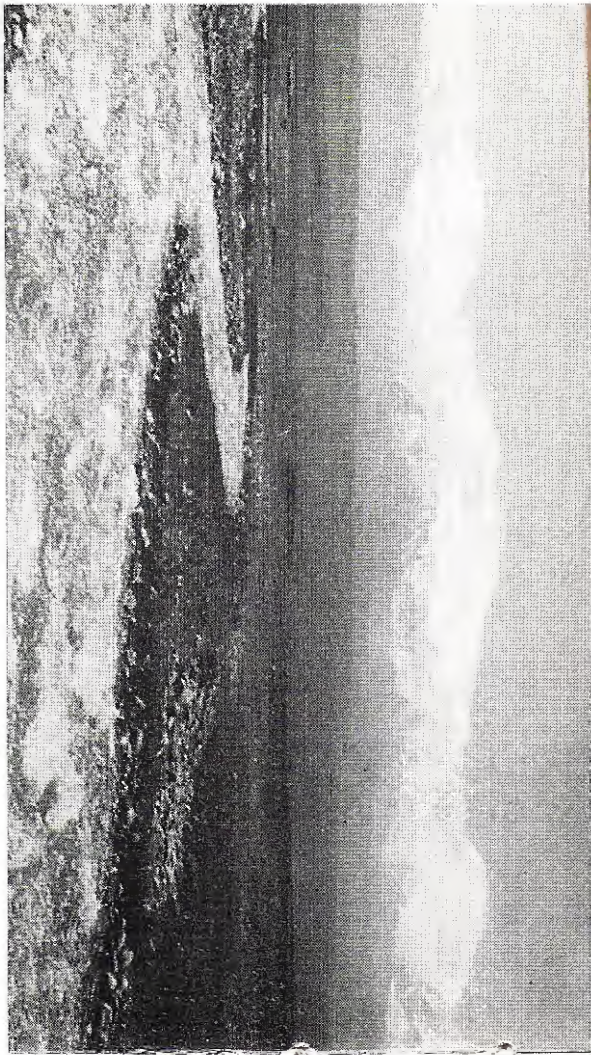
Top left: The weaving shop in the Osh Silk Mills.

Top right: Oil derricks in Kirghizia.

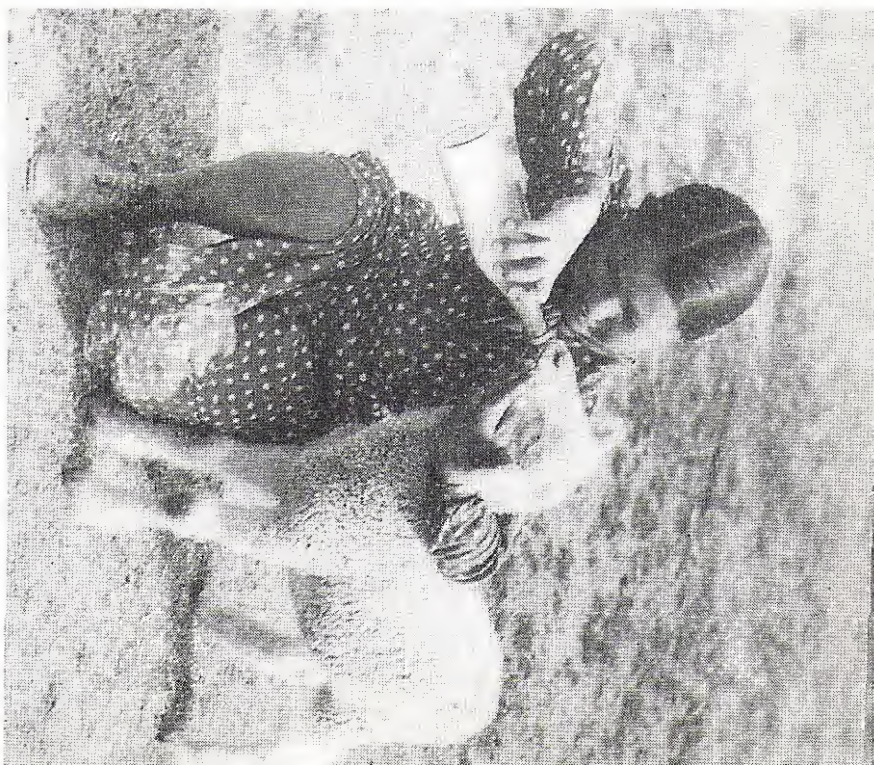
Left: The machine-shop of the Frunze Instruments factory.



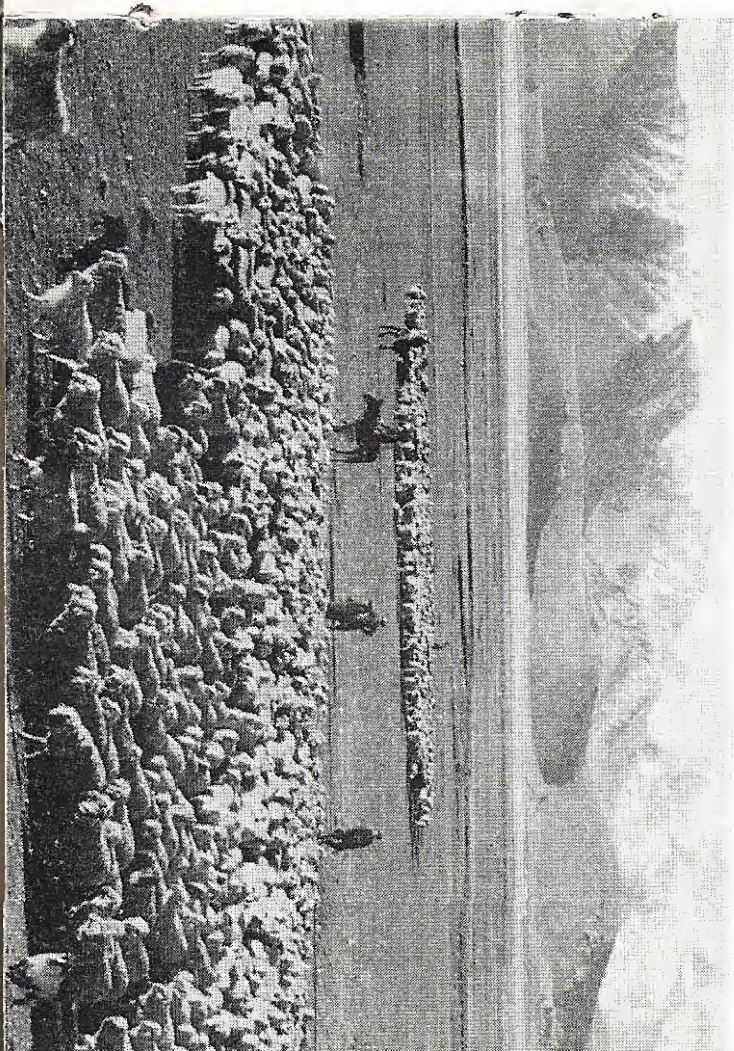
Below: The Kzyl Shalk collective farm club.



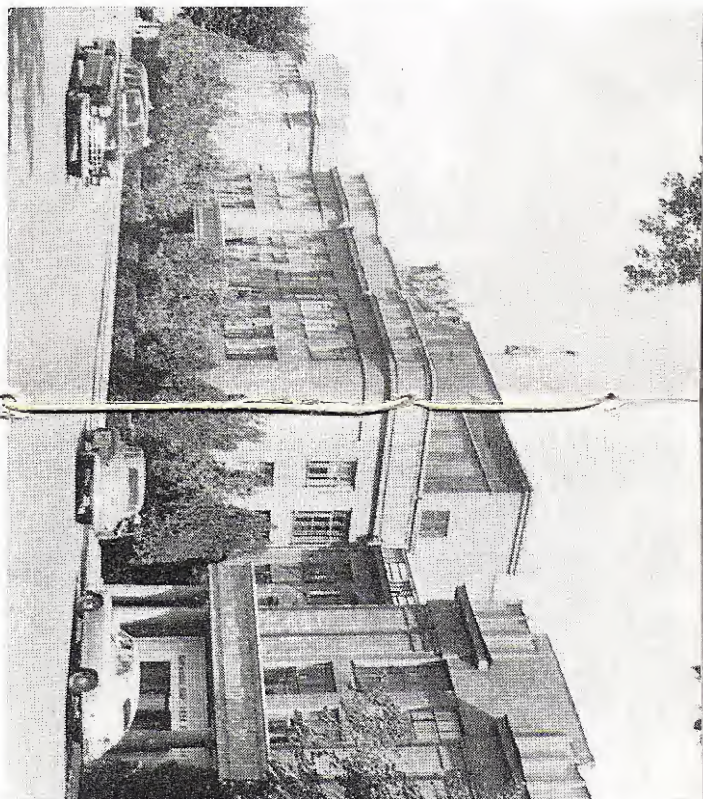
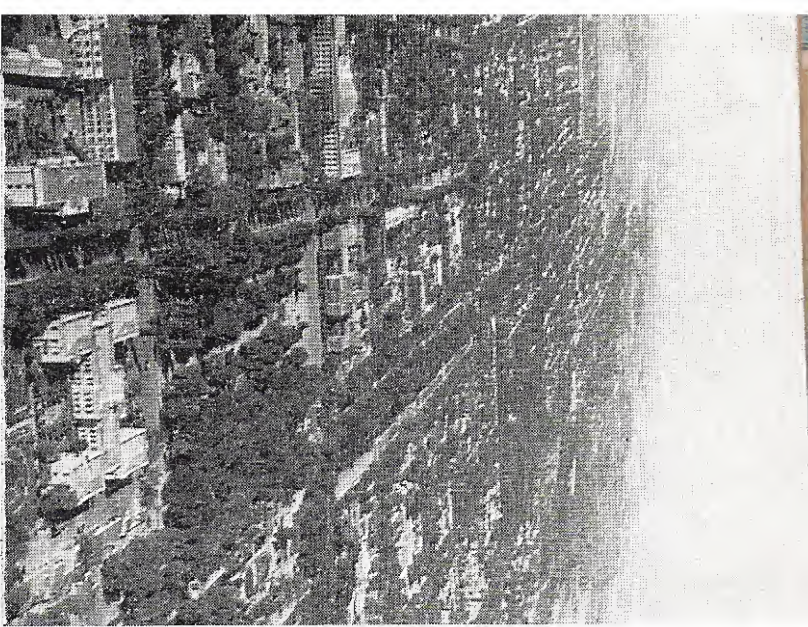
The flocks of sheep below are on the Karasai high-altitude pastures of the Tian-Shan range for the summer. The lamb on the right is lucky enough to have been selected for special treatment by Hasiya Beisendileva, an eighth form pupil of the October Secondary School.



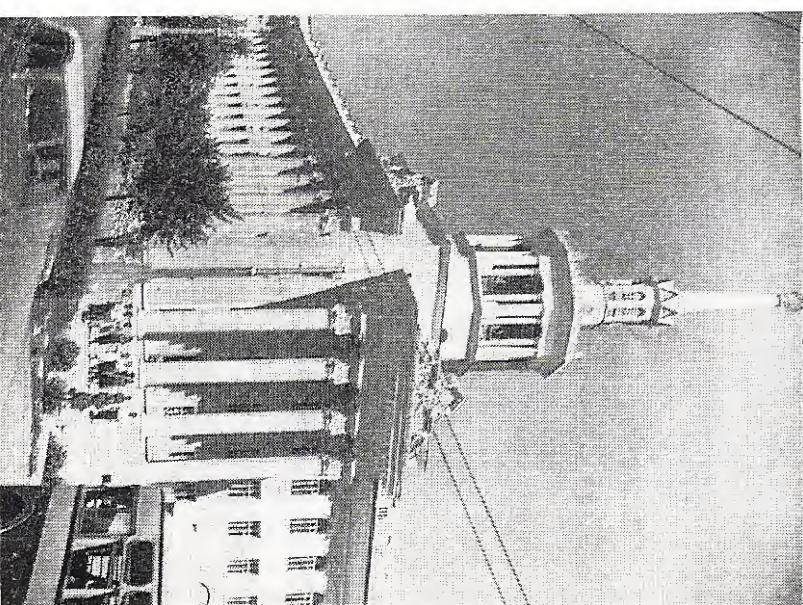
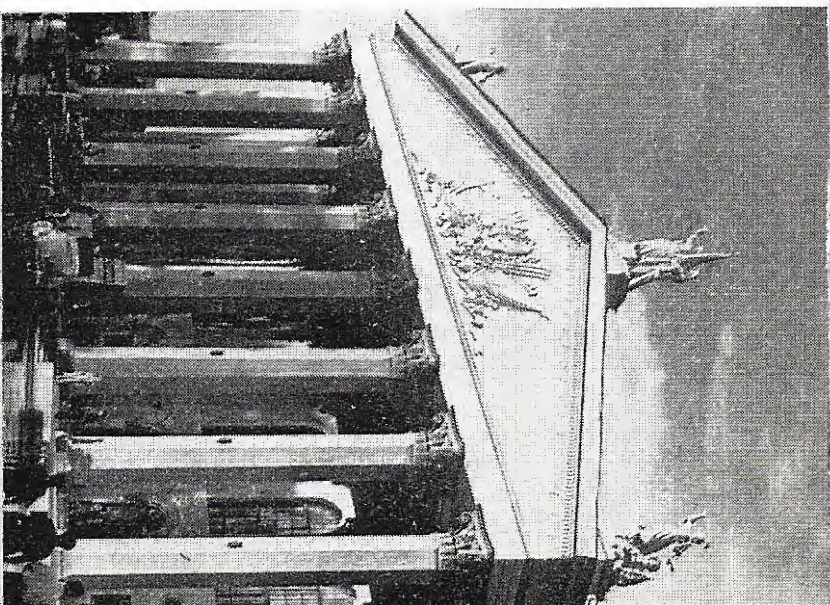
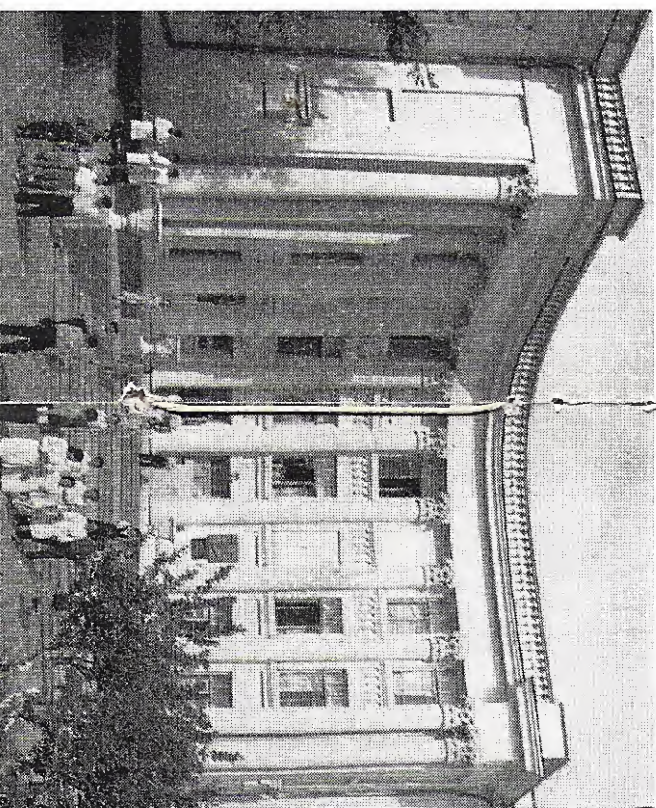
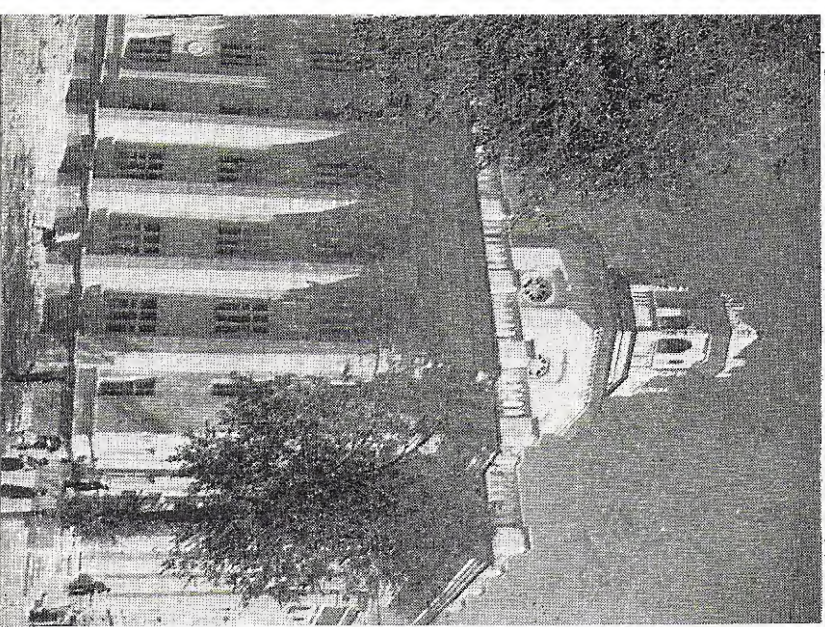
In the centre is the Lenin Peak (23,399 ft.) in the Trans-Alai Range of the Pamirs. The melting snows course over the Alai Plain in Kirghizia, bringing water to cotton-fields and orchards.

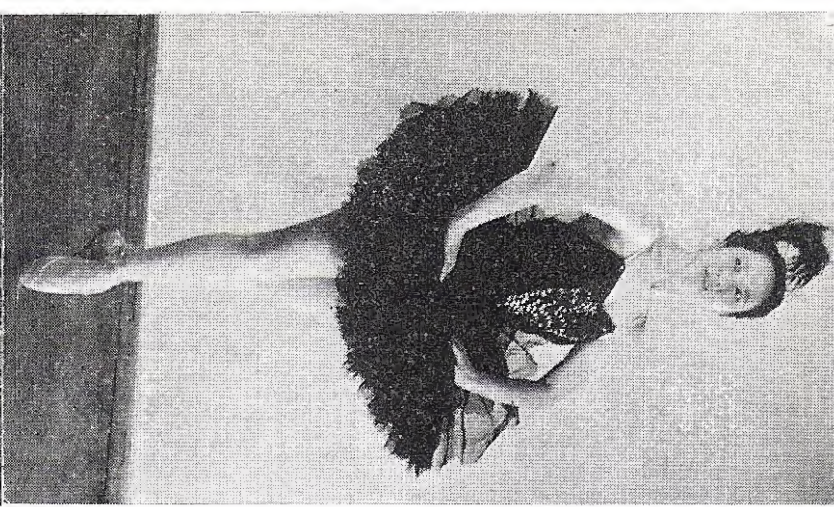


Young Shainyul Mamybayeva (left) looks hopefully at the apple-blossom on the Uzun collective farm.

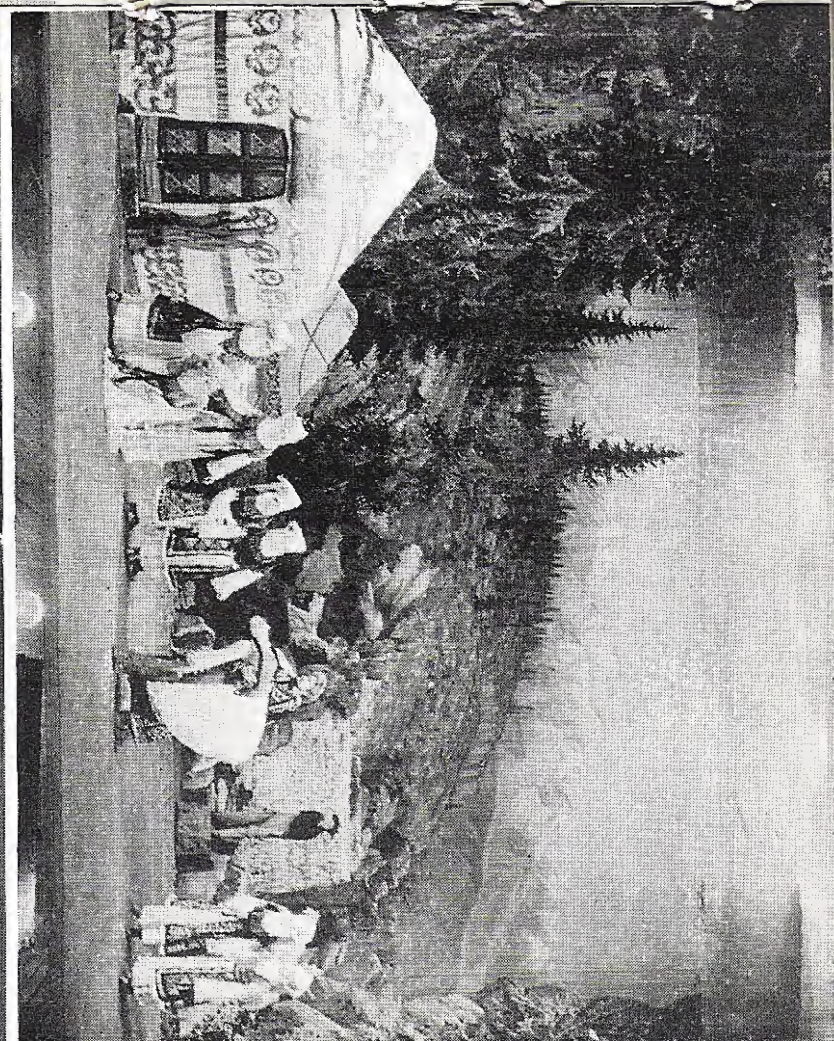


FRUNZE—Capital of Kirghizia. Top left to right: An aerial view of the city. The Government Building housing the Council of Ministers. Theatre of Opera and Ballet (opened May 1955). Bottom (left to right): State Polytechnical Institute. Institute of Medicine. The Hydro-Amelioration Technical College.



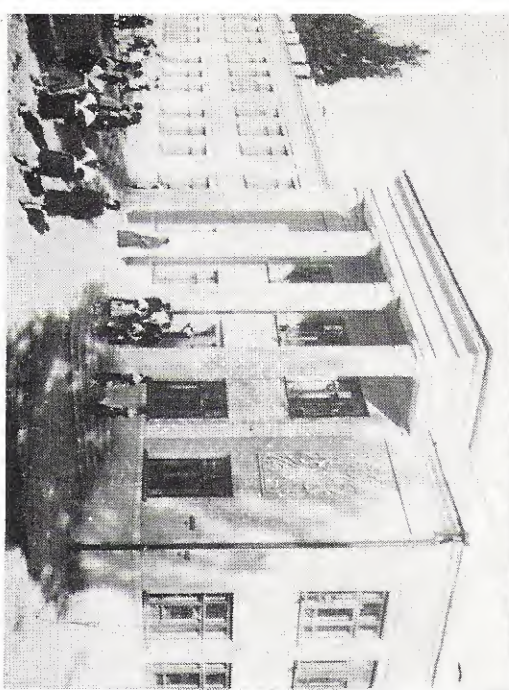


KIRGHIZIAN CULTURE. Left: People's Artist of the U.S.S.R. Baidynsara Baisandaliyeva as Odette in "Swan Lake". Right: a scene from the ballet "Anat" at the State Opera and Ballet Theatre in Frunze.



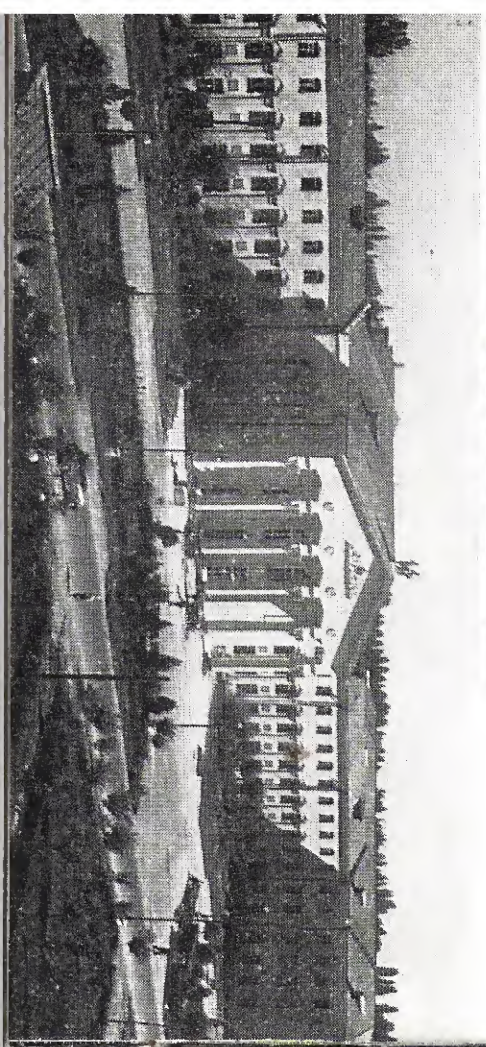


Above: Fifth-graders at Secondary School No. 3, Frunze - Selbek Djumetiev (left), Svetlana Kornilitsyna and Zhanna Kibwova.



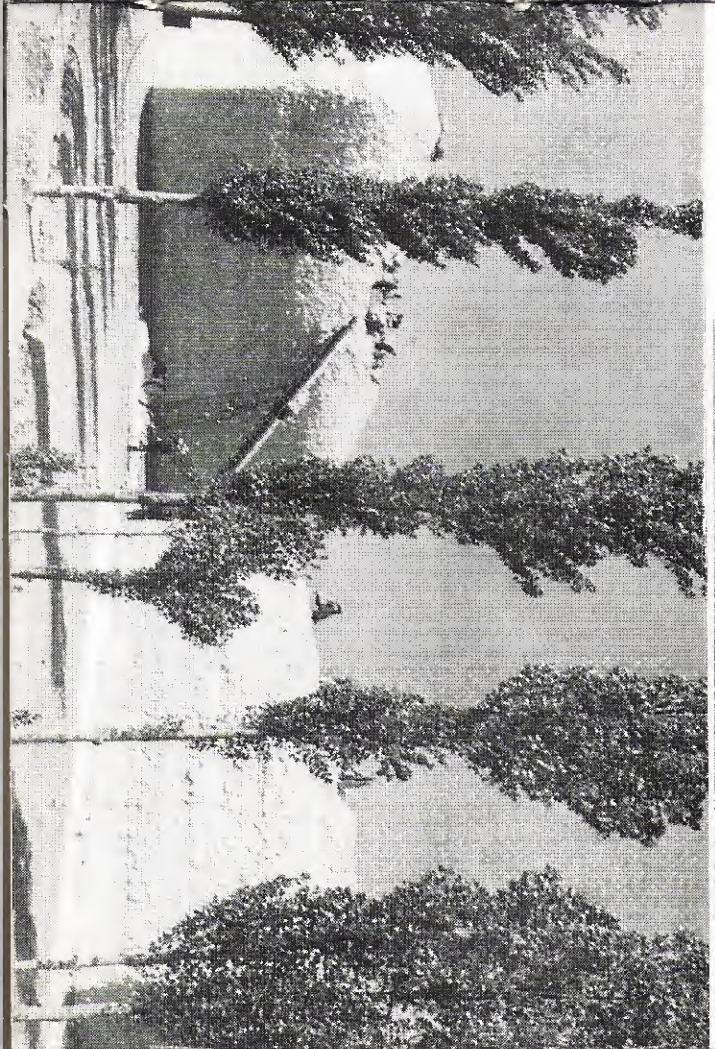
Centre: Kirov Secondary School, Przhnevsk.

Below: Kirehiz State University, Frunze.



SNOWY MOUNTAINS: Kireghizia's Tian-Shan Range provides good climbing for Soviet mountaineers. On the right we see a camp of the "Stormy Petrel" Sports Club in the Altai-Archim foothills.

AND MOUNTAINS OF "SNOW" — Cotton stacks at the Jakh-Abad Purchasing Centre.





FOXHUNTERS—but with a difference. Not horses and hounds, but horses and eagles—and the rider on the right has two trophies of the chase over his saddle. As these hunters roam the plains, they might come across ancient tombs such as those below surrounded by the Mohammedan crescent.



The new system of livestock maintenance and care adopted in Kirghizia has attracted attention in the Russian Federation and in the Ukraine, and many collective and state farms in other parts of the Soviet Union are learning from the experience of the Kirghiz livestock breeders.

Kirghizia's scientists have undertaken to develop a new breed of sheep which yields a high crop of fine wool, develops a heavy live weight and is suitable for ranging in mountain pastures.

The Kirghiz fine-fleeced mountain sheep raised at the Dzhan-Tyube state farm and in the adjoining districts is the main breed now. A group of zoo-technicians headed by professor Mikhail Lushchikhin has for twenty years been crossing the Kirghiz fat-tail sheep with fine-fleeced sheep brought from elsewhere: the Prekos, Württemberg, Rambouillet, Stavropol and Grozny breeds.

Their efforts have been crowned with success. The new breed has rapidly won recognition on the collective and state farms, and it now predominates in flocks throughout the Republic.

The shepherd enjoys general esteem in Kirghizia; his labour has created the foundation of social wealth in the livestock breeding collective and state farms. Tuliegen Dosbergenov, one of the shepherds on the Dzhan-Tyube state farm, has the gold star of a Hero of Socialist Labour on his breast. He has co-operated with scientists and animal breeders in work on the development of the new breed. His knowledge of sheep-breeding is well on a par with that of animal husbandry specialists. He has raised thousands of Kirghiz fine-fleeced sheep; and there are many expert shepherds like Tuliegen Dosbergenov in Kirghizia.

Sheep-breeding is one of the most profitable branches of farming in Kirghizia. The sales of wool and meat to the state bring in as much as 1-2 million roubles to an average collective farm. The Kirov collective farm in the Kirov district, for example, had an income exceeding 5 million roubles in 1958.

Twenty thousand sheep graze in its pastures at present. Their number is expected to increase to 32,000 by 1965. With the same amount of land, the farm will raise its production of wool by almost 100 per cent.

Meat production will also be doubled. How will this be accomplished?

Anyone who has seen the fields of the collective farm will not find it difficult to answer this question. Maize, which provides valuable feed for all livestock, sheep included, occupies much space there. Its cultivation will be stepped up under the seven-year plan, and in 1965 the collective farm is expected to raise the amount of silage by almost 200 per cent.

And since some of the sugar beet is also cultivated for use as feed and the farm is also raising lucerne and feed grain, it is clear that there will be ample fodder for the sheep and other livestock which are slated for a considerable increase in the seven-year period.

Mechanisation of all laborious jobs in field and animal husbandry is provided for in the seven-year plan of the Kirov collective farm. Preparation of fodder will be completely mechanised; electricity will be available to operate all the equipment. Twenty tractors, many other machines and about thirty trucks will completely banish hand labour from the fields of the collective farm.

More Meat and Milk

Livestock breeding is the leading branch of agriculture in Kirghizia. Production of meat in the Republic in 1965 will be raised to almost 300 per cent of the 1958 level and the production of milk will rise by 120 per cent in the same period. That will bring up *per capita* production of dairy products to 800 lb.

This means that at the end of the seven-year period Kirghizia will overtake the United States of America in per capita production of milk.

An enormous increase in the herds of cattle, and of cows primarily, will be necessary in order to ensure this growth in the production of meat and milk. At the end of the seven-year period the collective and state farms of the Republic will bring their herds up to 900,000 head, which will include up to 400,000 cows, and the milk yields will go up to 3 tons per cow.

The Republic is due to play an important part in increasing the production of wool. This production is to go up to 31,000 tons by 1965, an increase of 140 per cent over the 1958 volume. To this end the number of sheep will be increased to 10 million and the average amount of wool shorn per sheep to about 7.7 lb.

Improvement in stock is essential for raising the productivity of livestock and cutting the production costs of milk, meat and wool. To this end, sixteen state nurseries of pedigree stock, 119 farms for the propagation of pedigree stock, seventy-two republican, inter-district and district experimental stations for pedigree stock breeding and artificial insemination are being organised in the Republic.

A most important task is the provision of ample stocks of fodder for livestock farming. By 1965, the collective and state farms are expected to bring up the production of concentrated feeds to 450,000 to 490,000 tons, a 340 per cent increase over 1958, coarse fodder to 3.5 million tons, an increase of 100 per cent, and lush fodder up to 420,000 tons, an increase of 270 per cent.

Increases in the production of concentrated and lush feeds will be accomplished mainly by expanding the areas cultivated to maize and by a big increase in the maize yields.

With the object of rationalising the use of natural grazing areas, it is planned to supply water within the seven-year period to 3,725,000 acres of waterless pastures.

Valley of Sugar

The highway running from Saru along the Terskoy-Altai leads to the Boom Gorge. This long and narrow gorge, hemmed in by rocky walls, is the gateway to the Chu Valley. The primitive beauty of the scenery in this part of the country is truly staggering. The huge rocks astounded by their unusual combination of colours, now violet and blue, now ash and green, now flashing with red hues.

There was once a path for pack animals here, and travellers made their way along the precarious road by the edge of a precipice over the furious, roaring river.

A highway extends today next to the rushing Chu River and there is a railroad slightly above it. The Boom Gorge connects the territory adjoining

Issyk-Kul with the Chu Valley, and through this valley with the Soviet Union as a whole.

Pre-revolutionary Kirghizia was practically without any roads. It had no railways, or highways.

Today railways cut across the Republic from end to end, connecting Frunze, the capital, with many industrial centres and important economic districts.

Motor roads are of great economic value to the Republic. The Frunze-Tokmak-Rybachye-Naryn-Tunungart road, which passes through the Chu Valley and Central Tien Shan, connects Frunze with the most outlying districts of North Kirghizia. The Osh-Khorog motor road passes through the Pamir-Alai spurs.

In the seven-year period an improved highway will be laid across the Tien Shan highlands from north to south and will connect Frunze with Osh, the centre of the southern cotton-growing region. It will then take several hours to cover this distance by motor car, and not forty-eight hours as today.

Civil aviation has made great progress in Kirghizia. Regular communications are maintained by air with Moscow, Tashkent, Alma Ata and with many highland regions.

An Il-14 plane flies every day from Przhevalsk to Frunze. The Tien Shan mountains with their snow-capped summits occupy the entire horizon, and the strange endless mountain landscapes are a feast to the eyes.

The mountains are a real paradise for the hunter. Hunting is one of the most ancient and popular occupations among the Kirghiz. Modern rifles and traps have long become the main means of hunting and trapping in Kirghizia; and where a fox or hare cannot be reached by a bullet, the hunter can rely upon the trained falcon.

But let me return to the Chu Valley.

This valley is often called a botanical garden. And it really has a rich collection of the most diverse plants, with the exception, perhaps, of subtropical ones.

But the glory of the Chu Valley is sugar beet. As much as 1.54 tons of sugar per acre was picked in 1958, more than in any other Republic of the Soviet Union.

Kirghizia is now ahead of France and Italy in the production of sugar.

In the current seven-year period sugar beet yields are expected to reach an average of 18 to 20 tons per acre. One and a half million tons of beetroot will be processed in the Chu Valley in 1965, which is 25 per cent more than at present.

The large crops of sugar beet are due not only to an abundance of sunshine and fertile soil. The greatest credit for this is due to the sugar beet farmers who have become experts in their line.

There is a woman on the Shopokov collective farm in Sokuluk district whom everyone praises. Her life was not an easy one. She was still a young woman when her husband was killed in battle against the fascists in 1941, and she vowed to avenge his death by working constantly harder and better. Year in and year out, Kerimbyuyu Shopokova and her team have been

raising bumper crops of sugar beet. The gold star of a Hero of Socialist Labour shines on her breast.

And there are hundreds of collective farmers like K. Shopokova in the Chu Valley. The fame of the Kirghiz sugar beet farmers has been built up through their labour.

There are fine orchards in the Kirghiz Ala-Tau foothills. The great variety and gentle colouring of their fruit are remarkable. They include apples, pears, apricots, peaches, plums, cherries and grapes.

"Five times as much fruit and grapes"—is one of the targets of the Republic's seven-year plan. This provision is based on real calculations. In the next few years the collective farms of the Republic are expected to add 70,000 acres to their orchards and vineyards by reclaiming for this purpose the mountain slopes which are unsuitable for the cultivation of other crops. Fresh fruit, tinned fruit, wines and dried fruit will flow in abundance from Kirghizia to other Republics of the Soviet Union. Production of grapes, and of hard and soft fruit, will be increased five-fold in the seven years, and ten new canneries will be put into operation.

Fountain of Life

Wheat, sunflower seed, tomatoes, eggplants, pepper, soya bean, sago, hemp and many other crops are also raised in the Chu Valley.

They could not have been grown there without irrigation. In the Chu Valley, and throughout Kirghizia for that matter, water is the fountain of life.

In days long ago the *Myrap* (Prince of Water) was lord of the region; people's lives were in his hands. Much blood was shed in the battle for water which trickled slowly along the tortuous canals built without any engineering plans.

Concrete dams hold the water today. The Orto-Tokoy reservoir, the biggest in Kirghizia, now under construction will contain about 110,000 million gallons of water which will parch the thirst of the fertile fields in the Chu Valley.

Extensive irrigation systems have been built in Kirghizia under Soviet Government. The Great Chu Canal supplies water to tens of thousands of acres. Only thanks to the irrigation systems nurtured by the Great Chu Canal has the cultivation of sugar beet, fibre plants, the Kazanyk rose, and other crops become widespread in the Republic. Construction of the inter-republican Great Ferghana Canal in the Ferghana Valley has placed the cultivation of cotton and lucerne upon a sound foundation.

Thousands of new acres of land per year are being reclaimed for agriculture in Kirghizia. In 1958 alone, the irrigation areas were expanded by 48,000 acres. Furthermore, more than 550,000 acres received water for various uses. The expenditure on irrigation that year reached 126 million roubles.

It is planned to reclaim in 1959-1965 another 625,000 acres of virgin and long fallow lands for ploughing and for the cultivation of perennial plants. Construction of new irrigation systems and the improvement of existing ones should make it possible to supply water to 375,000 more acres of land.

By 1965, the irrigated territories in the Republic will be expanded to

24 million acres. The construction of the Bazar-Kurgan, Kugart and other reservoirs will be completed.

Irrigation systems are built at state expense. The state provides excavators, bulldozers, scrapers, graders and tip lorries, and appoints engineers and technicians to take charge of the construction.

Flying over the Chu or Ferghana valleys one can see distinctly the network of canals which carry water to the fields. The water is allocated to the collective farms, state farms and to private orchards and gardens so as to ensure the timely irrigation of plants.

Tribal feuds over water are now ancient history.

Construction of irrigation systems illustrates very well the state's concern for the development of agriculture in our Republic.

Cotton Plantations

In January, 1957, Nikita Khrushchev visited the capital of Kirghizia in order to present to the Republic the Order of Lenin. This high award was an expression of the gratitude of all the Soviet people to the people of Kirghizia for its labour, and the successes achieved in livestock farming, beet and cotton cultivation.

Many working peoples were present on that day in the opera and ballet theatre. In his speech at the presentation ceremony Khrushchev emphasised especially the services of the Kirghiz cotton farmers.

One of the speakers on that occasion was Aliya Anarov, leader of a cotton brigade on the "Communism" collective farm (Aravan district) who received two awards of the Hero of Socialist Labour title—which means that a bronze bust of the Hero is to be erected in the city or village where he was born. For more than twenty years now Anarov has been boosting cotton yields, first as a team leader, then at the head of a brigade, which produces more than 2.4 tons per acre. He assured Khrushchev in the name of all the cotton growers of the Republic that they would work with still greater energy for still better results.

In 1958 the Republic supplied 136,000 tons of "white gold", as cotton is often called in our country. Its production is to be raised to 200,000 tons in 1965. This target is realistic and is based primarily on the overall mechanisation of cotton farming.

Extensive construction of irrigation systems combined with the widespread use of the square hill method of planting and cultivation should open still greater possibilities for raising the crops of cotton. By the end of the seven-year period the cotton plantations will be expanded from 215,000 to 217,500 acres and crop yields will average at least 0.9 tons to the acre.

The hoe has become rare and it is rapidly vanishing from the collective farm fields of Kirghizia. More and more teams and brigades are going over to overall mechanisation, with almost all jobs being done by tractors and other machines.

One of the most successful collective farms in the southern cotton farming region is the Kyzyl-Shark in Kara-Sui district. It is known for its high crops of cotton, its overall mechanisation and high incomes which run into millions of roubles.

Incidentally, another distinguishing feature of this collective farm is the multi-national composition of its members. True, the Dungsans and Kirghiz

comprise the majority, but the members include Uzbeks, Russians, Ukrainians and representatives of seven other nationalities. They all work as a harmonious, well organised team.

This multi-national composition is found also in other regions of Kirghizia.

From Smoke-filled Tent to Modern Flat

Those who see Kirghizia today find it hard to imagine the lives of the parents of those who operate the machines in her modern factories and on her collective and state farms, or read lectures in the Kirghiz higher schools.

There is a tent on display at the Kirghiz Historical Museum; it affords a detailed picture of life in the recent past. There is a primitive hearth in the tent which is shaped of coarse felt. Smoke rising from the hearth filled the whole tent. *Shirdaki* (matting with national ornaments) are spread right on the earthen floor. There is no furniture, and the dwellers squatted on the mats. Their garments were made up mainly of coarse homespun cloth or sheepskins. The utensils in the home were made up of a soot-stained kettle and a few *pialas* (teacups). . . . Any rules of hygiene or sanitation were unknown; no bath houses existed.

The Kirghiz family household in the old days was a typical nomadic household. Sheep and horses comprised the main wealth. The flocks were made up mainly of sheep with coarse wool and a fat tail, inasmuch as mutton fat was valued most of all.

They were driven from pasture to pasture depending on the seasons, the whole family, tent and all, moving together with them.

There was an old saying current among the Kirghiz: "Where you build a bonfire there is your home, and where your horse is tied there is your pasture."

Gradually the Kirghiz began to plant barley and wheat and to build permanent dwellings. In pre-Soviet times, however, this transition to a settled existence was a very slow process.

Only after the Revolution, and, especially, with the beginning of large-scale industrialisation and the collectivisation of agriculture, could radical changes be noticed in the life of the nomads.

More and more people abandoned the smoke-filled dark tents for real homes, and new inhabited points were placed on the map of Kirghizia one after another.

Fifteen new cities have been built up in Kirghizia in the process of socialist construction, to mention but Osh, Kyzyl-Kiya, Sulyukta, Kok-Yangak, Tash-Kumyr, Naryn and Dzhalal-Abad. Chanyrtash, Pristan and Haidarkan are just a few of the new industrial towns, which number more than thirty.

Kirghizia today is well on the way to fulfilling the task set by the Communist Party and the Soviet Government in 1957—that of overcoming the housing shortage and solving the housing problem in the next ten to twelve years.

The overwhelming majority of Kirghizia's townsmen will be provided with separate flats by 1965. Houses are built not only at state expense. Some of the industrial workers, office employees and professionals prefer to build private homes for their families.

Entire blocks of these houses will come into being in the new districts of

Frunze, Osh and in the mining towns of the south. Altogether, almost three times more housing space than in the previous seven years, will be made available for tenancy in the Republic by 1965.

Allocations for housing construction will be 1,747 million roubles, almost three times the corresponding expenditure in the previous seven years.

Sweeping Educational Progress

An ordinary sheet of paper was rare in pre-revolutionary Kirghizian villages, to say nothing of books. The Kirghiz had no written language and only two out of one hundred people could read and write in those days. There was only one secondary school in the whole of Kirghizia; it was open mainly to children of tsarist officials. As for a college education, it was entirely beyond the reach of the Kirghiz.

Today there is not a single Kirghiz boy or girl, in town or country, who would stay away from school. All children, both boys and girls, and a great many adults too, are studying (adults are given the opportunity of attending evening schools, or colleges).

Universal eight-year schooling is in effect throughout the Republic which has a school attendance of more than 333,000. It is planned to spend 576 million roubles on the construction of schools and boarding schools in the current seven years.

Fulfillment of the seven-year plan will quicken cultural progress in the Republic. There will be more cinemas, libraries and other cultural services, more documentary films and periodicals.

Frunze will have new printing works by the end of 1965, and new regional and district printing works will also be set up.

Public education will see still greater progress. There will be greater facilities for education through correspondence courses and in evening schools and colleges. The school attendance is expected to go up in 1965 to 500,000, an increase of 54 per cent.

A considerable national intelligentsia has been educated in Soviet times. The Kirghiz now have their own scientists, agronomists, engineers, doctors and teachers in the cities and villages. Altogether, the Republic has more than 60,000 specialists with a higher and secondary schooling employed in different professions.

Any purposeful and systematic scientific work was out of the question in pre-revolutionary Kirghizia. Radical changes have taken place in this field as well.

Before the last war the Republic already had an institute of regional studies, agricultural, medical, teachers' training institutes and other higher educational establishments.

A most important landmark in the development of scientific thought in the Republic was the foundation of the Kirghiz branch of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. in 1943. Important additions have been made to the system of higher education in post-war years, to mention only the State University, polytechnical institute and teachers' training institutes in Frunze and Przhevalsk. A physical culture institute and an agricultural research institute were opened in 1956.

More research institutions will be set up and existing ones improved

under the seven-year plan, under which the Republic will gain a number of new institutes and laboratories.

The increase in the number of scientists and the accumulation of the necessary experience in scientific research furnished the basis for the transformation of the Kirghiz branch of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. into the Academy of Sciences of the Kirghiz S.S.R. in 1954.

Thirty-four scientific institutions of the Republic are conducting research under the auspices of the Academy, and 1,967 scientific workers, who number in their midst 555 members with D.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees, are employed in the research institutions and in the higher schools of the Republic.

Among the renowned Kirghiz scientists we find the names of Dr. Isa Akhunbayev (surgeon), the President of the Kirghiz Academy of Sciences, the historian Begmal Dzhangerichinov, the philologist Bolot Yunusaliyev, the geologist Musa Adyshev and the chemist Kadyr Shaternirov.

Conquering Disease and Ill-health

The public health protection system in pre-revolutionary Kirghizia was extremely poor, and the Kirghiz were doomed by the tsarist government to gradual extinction. Trachoma, tuberculosis, smallpox and venereal diseases were widespread.

In the whole of the region there were only nine dispensaries, seven hospitals and some twenty rural medical stations in the charge of surgeon's assistants. There was one hospital bed for every 100,000 inhabitants and one doctor for 50,000 inhabitants.

Today Kirghizia has 130 doctors for every 10,000 inhabitants, almost fifty times more than before the Revolution.

Many hospitals, maternity homes and dispensaries have been equipped. There are numerous inter-collective farm hospitals and maternity homes in the countryside. Several collective farms combine to build premises and equip hospitals to provide villagers with the necessary medical assistance right on the spot.

Health resorts have been developed and sanatoria equipped in places where valuable springs have been discovered: Dzhalal Abad, Koy Sara, Dzhetysay, Issyk-Ata and Tanga.

Public health protection receives constant attention from the Communist Party and the Soviet Government, and the results are evident in the general decline of disease, especially among children, and in the much higher birth rate.

The mortality rate has dropped from 16 per 1,000 of the population in 1940 to 6 per 1,000 today.

Further improvements in health protection are provided for in the seven-year plan. Capital investments for this purpose will be brought up in the Republic to almost 350 million roubles, almost 290 per cent more than in the earlier seven years, and there will be 88 hospital beds per 10,000 inhabitants, as against 64 in 1958.

Thanks to the powerful economic progress accompanied by continuous improvements in the people's life and to the special health services for mother and child, great improvements have been made in pre-school education of children. The kindergartens and creches of the Republic take care of 27,300 children today, and at the end of the seven-year period they will be able to accommodate almost 20,000 more youngsters.

Higher Living Standards

The successes of Kirghizia's socialist industry and agriculture have furnished the basis for considerable improvements in living standards. Wages and salaries in 1958 were greater by 360 per cent than in 1940. Collective farm incomes in 1958 approximated 2,000 million roubles, almost 2½ times the 1953 figure.

Deposits in the savings banks in 1958 amounted to 527,700 million roubles, almost fifteen times the 1940 figure, the average deposit having grown from 379 roubles in 1940 to 2,620 in 1958.

Still greater improvements in living and cultural standards are provided for in the seven-year plan. This is further proof of the attention devoted to the people's welfare by the Communist Party and the Soviet Government. Wages and salaries will go up in the Republic during the seven-year period by an average of 40 per cent, and collective farmers' incomes by 67 per cent. The steadily rising purchasing power creates a sound basis for the development of trade.

Retail sales in the state and co-operative stores will go up during the seven year period by 72 per cent, the sales of specific products to go up as compared with 1958 as follows: meat and meat products by 300 per cent, milk and other dairy products by 150 per cent, vegetables and potatoes by more than 200 per cent.

It is planned to raise by 1965 the sales of fabrics, garments and knitted goods per head of the population to almost double the 1958 volume.

About 300 units will be added in 1959-65 to the number of tailoring shops and other services (such as shops for the repair of garments and shoes, household and other articles, and so on).

A factory for making clothes to order is to be built and equipped in Frunze. The new additions will also include sixty-one shops for the repair of radio and TV sets, four service garages, twelve custom tailoring shops, seventeen aggregate utility services, and four factories with dry cleaning shops.

Thriving Arts

Very striking cultural progress has been made in the post-revolutionary period in Kirghizia. The Republic now has eight theatres, a State Philharmonic Society, a circus, five museums, 840 libraries and 436 cinemas. The most known company is the Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre which has in its repertory several national operas and ballets written by Kirghiz and Russian composers and based on national melodies.

Those who have seen a visiting performance given by the Kirghiz Opera and Ballet Theatre will never forget the spectacle. Imagine a hilly lawn rising gradually towards the mountains. There is a mobile stage in the centre and thousands of people seated on the hillslopes around it. Horsemen come to a stop on the edge of the valley. Seated on horseback they view the performance. And the poetic legend about Al-Churek (lunar beauty) is enacted on the stage.

Visiting performances given by the theatres in the most outlying parts of the Republic have become traditional in Kirghizia.

Entire casts come to many cities, industrial towns and rural centres to perform for the local people.

During the traditional Kirghiz art and literature festival in Moscow, in October, 1958, our artists and writers gained the favour of the Muscovites who rewarded with applause the singing of Saira Kyzybayeva, Maryam Makhmutova and Irina Derkenbayeva, the dancing of Byubynsara Beishenaliyeva and Cholpon Dzhannanova, the acting of Murabek Ryskulov and Baken Kydykeyeva, the original performance of the folk-singers Myskal Onurkhanova and Asek Dzhunabayev and many others.

Kirghiz literature is based on ancient folklore. The *akyns* (folkbards) composed songs about the people's heroism and labour, and the *manaschi* improvised songs about the heroes of the *Manas* (an epic poem). The *airtyshes* (contests of poets) attracted thousands of people.

Folklore is a rich fountain of inspiration to the Kirghiz poets and novelists of today, but the achievements of world literature have also become their domain. The works of Pushkin, Nizami, Mayakovsky, Firdausi, Nekrasov, Shakespeare, Byron and Molière are available in Kirghiz translation.

One of the most distinguished Kirghiz authors is Aaly Tokombayev. A shepherd's helper in the Issyk-Kul area in his boyhood, his thirst for knowledge led him to Frunze and, later, to Tashkent.

Tokombayev was the author of the first poem published in the Kirghiz language in the first Kirghiz printed journal. He is now known as the author of many poems, stories and plays.

The best productions of Kirghiz authors mirror historic events from the life of the Kirghiz and reproduce characters of our contemporaries who have built socialism and are building communist society.

Our writers live the life of their people and the leading topic in Kirghiz literature is the moulding of the Soviet character.

T. Sydykbekov's novel *People Of Our Time*, K. Bayalinov's *On the Shores of Issyk-Kul*, K. Malkov's *Spring in the Tien Shan Mountains* and many other productions of Kirghiz authors are available in translation in the Russian language and in the languages of the people's democracies.

Young though it is, the Kirghiz cinema has important successes to its credit. *Saitanat*, *Legend of A Cold Heart*, *My Mistake* and other productions of the Kirghiz Film Studio are well known. *Saitanat*, which pictures the life and work of the livestock breeders, was shown in France, India and other countries. The *Legend of A Cold Heart* is based on an ancient fairy tale about a magic flute. Motifs from fairy tale lore are closely intertwined with contemporary elements. The film raises questions of the place of art in life, of its purpose and tasks. *My Mistake*, a lyrical comedy, deals with questions of everyday life and ethics. It lashes survivals of the past in the minds of some people.

Soviet Kirghiz music is developed on the basis of the loftiest traditions of the people's lore, and on the basis of the experience of classical and Soviet music.

Several national operas and ballets have been written by Kirghiz composers. Best known is *Toktogul*, an opera about the life of the great Kirghiz democratic poet Toktogul Satylganov, who was also a musician, and an outstanding revolutionary. In his youth Toktogul was accused of incitement to revolt against the tsarist regime and spent twelve years in exile, where he made friends with Russian revolutionaries, learned about Lenin and grasped

the meaning and need for revolutionary struggle for the people's freedom. With the aid of Russian political prisoners, Toktogul fled from prison and returned to his native region where he composed remarkable songs of the revolution, of the people's struggle for freedom, songs about Lenin. Folk melodies and several songs composed by Toktogul went into the pattern of the opera, which is an important event in the development of Kirghiz operatic art.

Among the most popular ballets are *Cholpon* based on folklore motifs and *Ahar* which revives scenes of life in pre-revolutionary Kirghizia. Painting, graphic art and sculpture have all thrived in Kirghizia under socialism. One of the leading artists of the Republic (and the first Kirghiz professional artist) Gapar Aitiev, is the creator of many pictures.

The work of artists, composers, writers and film-makers is highly appreciated by the Communist Party, the Soviet Government and the whole people. Our creative intellectuals live the life of the people; they have the gratitude of the people for what they have done and are doing, and a most appreciative audience.

Now that I am drawing to a close, my reader has before him a picture of the history and present life of the Kirghiz people, of the road covered by them from poverty and backwardness to culture and progress.

Julius Fucik was right when he wrote after his visit to Kirghizia: "We were going to a country described by bourgeois tellers of fairy tales as a wild exotic region. But we found a country where construction rates are much faster than in the 'most civilised' advanced countries of the capitalist West..."

Most truthfully and aptly said. Precisely in the rates of our all-round progress are the advantages of the socialist social system most evident. They reflect our today and our tomorrow. Their accomplishments under the leadership of the Communist Party and the results of the practical implementation of the principles of the Leninist national policy, strengthen the Kirghiz people in their conviction that we shall carry out all our plans.

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